

SAA Electronic Records Section, Friday August 14 (Austin 2009)

Agenda:

Announcements:

Program Committee announcement

Mahnaz Ghaznavi – NHPRC announcements – description of available grants and deadlines.

Bruce Ambacher - Council announcements

Election:

Candidates:

-Vice chair:

Kelly Eubank

Riccardo Ferrante

- Steering Committee Member

Rachel Donahue

John LeGloahec

Lynda Schmitz Fuhrig

Bethany Panozzo

Benjamin Goldman

Each gave statement about why they were running for office.

Ballots were handed out and returned to steering committee for counting.

Announcements

Mark Conrad:

Technology Best Practices Task Force was assigned from SAA and no one from ERS was appointed. Bibliography was adopted 2 years ago and they presented at the ERS since most of the bibliography had nothing to do with practice and the ERS was not consulted. Mark was then appointed to the task force. December 2008 final report was turned in to SAA Council. Report includes opinion that bibliography has nothing to do with best practices. The chair of the task force asked what should we do with bibliography? Answer from task force – take it down. Final result: bibliography was posted, but not the report. Mark contacted SAA leadership about this. Spring 2009 response is that the chair of the task force would write up contextual statement with report. Report just went up (without any task force input) – bibliography is there with report as appendix. Mark again contacted Council. Nancy Beaumont will arrange teleconference with the chair of the task force, Mark and Executive Council to discuss further steps. Mark wants to make sure section membership is aware of this situation.

Main presentation:

Cal Lee, SILS, UNC

“Addressing the Messiness of Electronic Records Acquisition: Discussion of Methods and Proposed Professional Directions”

Discussed special role of professionals within society. Discussed the history of collecting personal papers. He then discussed the changes with the professionalization of archivists. Individuals and organizations have gained more ability to create and store materials that they find useful now. Researchers have placed more emphasis on personal narratives. Digital resource managers and creators are now coming together with shared challenges for their long-term care.

First tasks: avoiding technological obsolescence. Gaining intellectual control. How do they get done in socially responsible ways? Need to disclose what we honestly believe we can do. Practice “informed ignorance”, especially with records creators.

### Get, Grab and Guide

Get stuff (on removable media). Inventory media and hardware that’s around. Refer to digital forensics as experts in this. Ensure that unintentional changes aren’t made to data. Refers to RFC 3227 – the Guidelines for Evidence Collection and Archiving as helpful things to think about.

Think about the ethical implications of obtaining and providing access to data.

Grab (from the internet). Adoption of Web 2.0 and “cloud” services.

Guide – we’ll only have a sliver of someone’s documentary history. How do we get data back from proprietary software and how to provide guidance to individuals. Refer to the Terms of Service Tracker from the Electronic Frontier Foundation to know what you’re getting into. Image-Permanence Institute guidance for managing personal digital files is also useful. Cal’s book on personal digital archives is another resource.

Personal Digital Archives Working Group (PDAWG) is a new group coming together from a meeting in March 2009 in Chapel Hill (a self-standing group outside of SAA). How to also have area in ERS that address curation of digital personal papers. Digital Curation Exchange website in Drupal for this group. Contact Cal if you want to be a part of this group.

Comment - tie into strategic priorities with the diversity initiatives in documenting community-based archives.

Questions and discussion.

Cal will post Powerpoint to ERS website.

Election results:

Kelly Eubank was elected as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

Rachel Donahue was elected as Steering Committee member